Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota's homeownership rate is 70.9 percent, which exceeds the national rate of 68.3 percent; and,

Whereas, Increasing South Dakota's homeownership rate will provide a better foundation for personal dreams to be met, stronger families to be built, stable neighborhoods to be developed, and vital communities to be improved upon; and,

Whereas, Dismantling the barriers to homeownership is a high priority of the national administration, as well as state and local housing leaders; and,

Whereas, One major barrier to homeownership is consumers' fear and lack of understanding of the homeownership process, along with not knowing available programs that will help them become homeowners; and,

Whereas, Homebuyer education is the key component to break down that barrier of the homeownership process for all potential homebuyers; and,

Whereas, Studies also indicate that homebuyers who obtain structured homeownership education have reduced rates of loan delinquency; and,

Whereas, Partners like the Homeownership Education Resource Organization and its participating service providers, USDA Rural Development, the South Dakota Housing Development Authority, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fannie Mae, the Citigroup Foundation, the South Dakota Community Foundation, and all South Dakota's Mortgage Lenders are working to improve access and availability of homeownership education opportunities to our residents; and,

Whereas, It is vital that residents of South Dakota are made aware of these opportunities available for local homebuyer education:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 20–26, 2004, as

HOMEOWNERSHIP EDUCATION AWARENESS WEEK

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fifteenth Day of June in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State